

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases, ~~which has a structure in which~~ comprising:

a columnar body ~~made of~~ comprising a plurality of porous ceramic members, each of said porous ceramic comprises a number members having a plurality of through holes, said through holes being placed extending in parallel with one another in ~~[[the]]~~ a length direction of said columnar body and ~~[[with]]~~ a wall portion interposed ~~therebetween~~ between said through holes, said wall portion being configured to collect particles in exhaust gases; and

a plurality of plugs filling predetermined through holes ones of said through holes are filled with plugs at one end of said columnar body, ~~while the~~ and other ones of said through holes ~~that have not been filled with said plugs at said one end are filled with plugs at the other end of said columnar body; and a part or all of said wall portion functions as a filter for collecting particulates,~~

wherein ~~the porosity of~~ said columnar body has a porosity which is in a range from 20 to 80%, ~~and the porosity of said~~ [[plug]] plugs have a porosity which is 90% or less, and is also said porosity of said plugs is set to 0.15 to 4.0 times as much as the of said porosity of said columnar body.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein said ~~[[the]]~~ porosity of ~~the plug~~ said plugs is set to 0.25 to 1.5 times ~~as much as the~~ of said porosity of ~~[[the]]~~ said columnar body.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising ~~wherein~~ a catalyst ~~[[is]]~~ supported ~~thereon~~ by said columnar body.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein~~ claim 3, further comprising a catalyst supporting film ~~is placed on the surface thereof~~ provided over a surface of said columnar body.

Claims 5-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein said columnar body comprises a sealing material layer combining said porous ceramic members.